

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 19-68—sSB 356

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Appropriations Committee

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT APPRENTICESHIP
AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

SUMMARY: This act modifies the education commissioner's committee to coordinate public school students' education on manufacturing careers by:

1. renaming the committee the "Connecticut Apprenticeship and Education Committee;"
2. broadening the committee's scope to include additional fields, including insurance, health care, financial technology, biotechnology, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), construction trades, hospitality industries, and other appropriate industries;
3. modifying the committee's membership; and
4. modifying the information included in the committee's required annual report and establishing July 1, 2020, as the first reporting date.

The act also eliminates the requirement that the committee annually produce a catalog of manufacturing training programs at institutions of higher education that must be distributed to local and regional boards of education.

The act makes corresponding changes to statutes requiring the (1) education commissioner to introduce students to careers in manufacturing and (2) State Department of Education (SDE) to produce a best practices guide for school districts.

It also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE DUTIES

Prior law required the committee to coordinate the education of middle school and high school students on careers in manufacturing. The act instead requires the committee to coordinate and identify (1) potential pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training program integration and (2) leveraged funding for career technical education programs in high schools and higher education institutions for careers in various industries.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Under prior law, committee membership included, but was not limited to:

1. representatives from the economic and community development and labor departments, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Technical Education and Career System, regional community-technical colleges'

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advanced manufacturing centers, independent higher education institutions that offer manufacturing training, Connecticut Employment and Training Commission, and manufacturing companies and employee organizations that represent manufacturing workers; and

2. middle and high school teachers, guidance counselors, and school counselors.

The act adds to the committee membership (1) a representative from the Connecticut Manufacturers Collaborative; (2) school principals and superintendents; and (3) representatives of all companies, instead of only manufacturing companies, that represent manufacturing workers.

ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

Prior law required the committee to (1) consult with the manufacturing industry to annually report on whether current manufacturing programs are meeting workforce needs and (2) submit its report to the Commerce and Higher Education and Workforce Advancement committees by February 1 each year.

The act requires the committee to instead annually report on whether the state's apprenticeship training programs are meeting residents' needs. When producing the report, the committee must:

1. coordinate and identify potential modern pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training programs;
2. review and consider European apprenticeship training programs; and
3. consult with members of the insurance, health care, financial technology, biotechnology, STEM, construction trades, hospitality industries, and other appropriate industries, in addition to the manufacturing representatives.

The act establishes July 1, 2020, as the revamped committee's first annual reporting date and requires the committee to submit the report to the Labor and Public Employees Committee, in addition to the two committees mentioned above.

COMMISSIONER DUTIES

The act requires the education commissioner, in consultation with the committee, to introduce public school students to careers in all the above listed industries, instead of only manufacturing, as under prior law.

The act expands existing law's requirement for the commissioner to develop and administer a program to introduce middle and high school students, their parents or guardians, and guidance and school counselors to careers in manufacturing by additionally requiring a program to introduce the same groups to careers in all the above listed industries.

BEST PRACTICES GUIDE

Prior law required SDE, in consultation with the manufacturing industry and

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the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, to develop a best practices guide to help local and regional boards of education incorporate relationships with manufacturing in their middle school and high school curricula. The act expands this requirement to include all the industries mentioned above.